

LOCALLY ADAPTABLE CENTRAL SECURITY MANAGEMENT IN A HETEROGENEOUS NETWORK ENVIRONMENT

Abstract of the Disclosure

A system and method for defining and enforcing a security policy. Security mechanism application specific information for each security mechanism is encapsulated as a key and exported to a semantic layer. Keys are combined to form key chains within the semantic layer. The key chains are in turn encapsulated as keys and passed to another semantic layer. A security policy is defined by forming key chains from keys and associating users with the key chains. The security policy is translated and exported to the security mechanisms. The security policy is then enforced via the security mechanisms.

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Attn: Box Patent Application, Washington, D. C. 20231.

"Express Mail" mailing label number *EL 254617 202 US*

Date of Deposit *January 14, 2000*

Printed name

Signature

Thomas F. Foreman *Laura A. Ryan*
Laura A. Ryan